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COUNSELING EVASION.

Sen. J. William Fulbright, who is chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, cannot seem to understand why President Eisenhower took responsibility for the U-2 flight that failed in Russia. Several times he has expressed the opinion that this was a responsibility that the president should not have admitted to. What Sen. Fulbright has in mind is hard to fathom. He repeated his question with respect to the president's role after Allen W. Dulles, the chief of the C.I.A., testified Tuesday at the senate foreign relations investigation.

Mr. Dulles discussed the role of the C.I.A. secretly with the investigating senators. Not too much has been revealed about the Dulles testimony. He was questioned by Sen. Fulbright about the policy decisions leading up to the president's acknowledgement of responsibility for the U-2. Perhaps Sen. Fulbright has a diversionary role in his statements in order to make headlines on subjects other than the principal details of the investigations. He talks about the president's breaking diplomatic precedent. He further said that he hoped that the president's action would be regarded as an exception to the rule and that future presidents would not feel under an obligation to follow the same course. The senator finds that the president's acceptance of personal responsibility might set a precedent that would bind future presidents.

Let it be said once and for all that President Eisenhower probably didn't know anything about the specific details of the U-2 flights, nor probably was he very much aware of what the cameras photographed on these flights. Nor probably did he know when the normal flights would be scheduled and specifically whether there was to be a May 1 flight. Yet all of the intelligence operations assigned to the C.I.A. when that agency was established in 1947 were in behalf of the president. This was to be his agency for overseas intelligence. The army has its G-2, the navy its O.N.I., the Attorney General the F.B.I., and the State Department its own intelligence gatherers. The idea was that the president

since agencies were to supply pertinent data to the president, he would evaluate this material before any C.I.A. reports were rendered directly to the president. If this was so, his agency, then, is guilty of the responsibility with respect to it.

The president of the United States appoints the chief of the C.I.A., and in this case, Allen W. Dulles. The chief decides what the president ought to know in the way of significant overseas information and prepares to secure it for him. Certainly Mr. Dulles and the C.I.A., which has been attacked more than it has been defended over the past 10 years, are not going to make the mistake of neglecting to pursue a potentially good information-gathering method.

As a result of atomic warfare, certain of the presidential responsibilities have been spelled out in law, to a greater degree than ever before. For example, President Truman has told of his responsibility for the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Immediately after that first cabinet meeting in the White House when Mr. Truman became the president to succeed Franklin D. Roosevelt, the secretary of war, Henry L. Stimson, stayed behind to talk with Mr. Truman about the work that was being done perfecting the atom bomb. Mr. Stimson informed Mr. Truman that it was the president's responsibility to order the use of the bomb. Subsequently he did exactly this.

Any orders today to send forth the Strategic Air Command on nuclear bombing expeditions must issue directly and personally from the president of the United States. Traditionally a declaration of war against a foreign country has been the responsibility of the congress. Sudden attack, as on the occasion of Pearl Harbor and later on Korea, gave absolute evidence that some way must be developed for immediate decision without any temporary delays. So the president today has very clear and defined powers for immediate defensive retaliation.

When such powers rest with the

president, then, of course, he is responsible for the act as well as the preliminary details of the decisions for retaliation. The C.I.A. provides him with information. If he doesn't like the information, he can ask the C.I.A. to get more.

There was no other course open for President Eisenhower other than to acknowledge a role of responsibility in the U-2 espionage mission. The Russians knew what the airplane was doing in Russia. Nothing was to be gained by evasions, half-truths or untruths. Sometimes it is hard to pin responsibility down in Washington for any kind of a decision. Certainly the president, on making the acknowledgement of the U-2 in the way he did, offers a precedent for leadership, something that is absolutely necessary for the part that the United States must play in maintaining world peace, as well as its own defense.